

5.(Amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the recess edge (7) is shaped with a conical form converging towards its free end.

11.(Amended) Ball-and-socket joint according to claim 7, characterized in that the recess edge (7) is shaped to converge towards its free end.

12.(Amended) Ball-and-socket joint according to claim 7, characterized in that the piston (2) and/or the slipper (3) is or are hardened.

Please add new claims 13-15 as follows:

13.(New) Method according to claim 4, characterized in that, before finishing the lateral surface (2c) of the piston (2), the lateral surface (2c) is gas-nitrided.

14.(New) Ball-and-socket joint according to claim 11, characterized in that the recess edge (7) is shaped with a conical form converging towards its free end.

15.(New) Ball-and-socket joint according to claim 12, characterized in that the piston (2) and/or the slipper (3) is nitride-hardened.

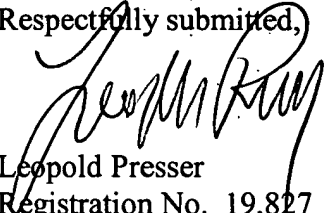
#### REMARKS

As originally amended pursuant to PCT Article 34, claims 4, 5 and 12 did not comply with the multiple dependent claim style specified by U.S. Law. The amendments submitted above have been made to delete all multiple dependent claims.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

It is respectfully requested that the above amendments be entered before an action on the merits is issued.

Respectfully submitted,



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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**In the claims:**

Claims 3-5, 11 and 12 has been amended as follows:

3.(Amended) Method according to Claim 1 [or 2], characterized in that the recess edge (7) is hot-beaded.

4.(Amended) Method according to [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that, before finishing the lateral surface (2c) of the piston (2), the lateral surface (2c) is nitrided or hardened [, in particular gas-nitrided].

5.(Amended) Method according to [one of Claims] claim 1 [to 3], characterized in that the recess edge (7) is shaped with a conical form converging towards its free edge.

11.(Amended) Ball-and-socket joint according to [one of Claims] claim 7 [to 10], characterized in that the recess edge (7) is shaped to converge [, in particular conically,] towards its free end.

12.(Amended) Ball-and-socket joint according to [one of the preceding Claims] claim 7 [to 11], characterized in that the piston (2) and/or the slipper (3) is or are hardened [, in particular nitride-hardened].